



City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: May 12, 2010

TO: Creeks Restoration/Water Quality Improvement Program
Citizen Advisory Committee

FROM: Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager

SUBJECT: "Plan Santa Barbara" General Plan Update – For Action

COMMITTEE DIRECTION

That the Committee discuss and finalize written comments on the Draft General Plan and Environmental Impact Report prepared as part of the "Plan Santa Barbara" General Plan update.

Discussion

The purpose of this item is to provide the Creeks Advisory Committee with an opportunity to review and discuss the recommendations from the Creeks Advisory Committee's Watershed Subcommittee, and prepare a written comment letter regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report and policy considerations in the Draft General Plan (March 2010).

Background

The City of Santa Barbara is currently engaged in the process of updating its General Plan. The "Plan Santa Barbara" General Plan update includes a broad range of new and existing goals and policies that will shape development in the City over the next twenty years, and have a profound effect on local creeks and beaches – including water quality.

The Planning Division recently released a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed "Plan Santa Barbara" General Plan policy amendments and future growth in the City to the year 2030 and beyond. The DEIR evaluates potential impacts to biological resources, hydrology, water quality, open space, visual resources, and climate change.

The Committee received a presentation from Planning Division staff on the "Plan Santa Barbara" General Plan update project on April 21, 2010. Staff explained that, at this

stage in the process, the goal was to review and comment on the DEIR and specific policy proposals. After the presentation, the Committee expressed its collective desire to continue its active participation in the Plan Santa Barbara process, and to provide written input regarding creek and ocean-related issues. The Committee directed the Watershed Subcommittee to meet again to review the draft documents, and to make recommendations to the full Committee at its May meeting.

The Watershed Subcommittee met on May 6, 2010 to formulate its draft recommendations to the Committee. This follow-up work session was scheduled to provide the Committee with an opportunity to review and discuss those recommendations, and to prepare and finalize a written comment letter to the Planning Division regarding the DEIR and Draft General Plan.

cc: Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director